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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 006309

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/29/2007

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF U.S. DIPLOMAT IN AMMAN: STATUS AS  
OF NOON LOCAL 10/29

REF: (A) AMMAN 6282 (B) AMMAN 6265 (C) AMMAN 6261

Classified By: DCM Gregory L. Berry. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (C) Twenty four hours after the brutal murder of USAID employee Larry Foley, the GOJ continues to provide excellent cooperation in the investigation of the attack and in implementing new security measures to protect the American community. At the political level, numerous senior GOJ officials (the King, PM, FM, Minister of Interior, Minister of Planning, and others) have made public statements strongly condemning the attack, reaffirming Jordan's close relationship with the U.S., and vowing to do all they can to find the perpetrator(s) and bring him/them to justice. Jordan's largest opposition party -- The Islamic Action Front -- also condemned the attack stating "our condemnation of U.S. policies does not mean that we sanction murder." A common theme in today's press and in conversations with contacts has been that this was an attack as much on Jordan as it was on the U.S., and that it was intended to sow instability in the Kingdom. Alongside this as well have been expressions of shame and anger that Jordan's tradition of gracious hospitality to guests has been assaulted.

2. (C) Investigation: Both the GID and PSD continue to work the case hard and are devoting extensive resources to finding the perpetrators. A two-person DS Protective Intelligence Investigative (PII) team is scheduled to arrive in Amman from Washington this evening (10/29) to assist in the investigation. The London-based Arabic-language daily "al-Quds al-Arabi" reported on 10/29 that it had received a statement from a group called "Shurafa al-Urdun" (Honorable or Nobles of Jordan) claiming responsibility for the attack. The same group had claimed responsibility for the murder of an Israeli businessman in Amman in August 2001.

3. (SBU) Security: The RSO is working with the Jordanian security services on providing increased security in our residential areas. Police worked with RSO staff throughout Tuesday night (10/28-10/29) identifying residences and preparing plans on how best to provide a higher level of security. Police coverage will consist of a combination of marked and unmarked units, static positions, and foot patrols which will work in the close vicinity of all Embassy residences. The Embassy mobile patrols will continue their 24-hour checks of residences. Two Regional RSO TDYers are scheduled to arrive in Amman on 10/29 to assist in implementing our increased security posture.

4. (C) King Abdullah's Condolence Call to Virginia Foley and Embassy Memorial Service: The King is scheduled to come to the Ambassador's residence early afternoon of October 29 to personally convey his condolences to Virginia Foley. At 1400 local time October 29 the Embassy will hold a memorial service for Larry Foley at which Ambassador Gnehm and USAID Jordan Director Toni Christiansen-Wagner will speak. All employees and American family members have been invited to attend.

5. (C) Arrangements for Return to U.S.: NEA A/S Burns is scheduled to arrive in Amman the evening of October 29 from Manama via milair. Also arriving this evening is AID Deputy Administrator Fred Schieck. Separate milair is scheduled to arrive in Amman on Wednesday morning October 30 to transport Virginia Foley, the remains of Larry Foley, NEA A/S Burns, USAID Deputy Administrator Schieck, and accompanying USAID and DOS staff to Andrews AFB. Departure from Amman is tentatively scheduled for 1400 on October 30.

GNEHM